



SRC Calendar:

Monday, March 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 am – noon: Session/Caucus • 1:30 pm: House Finance Committee hearing on tobacco sampling (SB 5048 – Oke, HHR C) • 1:30 am – 6 pm: Senate Ways & Means hearing (SHR 4)
Tuesday, March 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:15 am: Tuesday Morning Fellowship (JAC ABC) • 8 am: Joint House FI&I, Health Care and Judiciary work session on OIC's report on the medical malpractice closed claim study (HHR A, Live on TVW) • 9 am: DOMA oral arguments at Supreme Court • 9 am – noon: Session/Caucus • 10 am: Governor Gregoire press conference announcing directors of General Administration and Financial Institutions, Governor's Conference Room. • 11 am – 1 pm: Mayday for marriage rally • 1:30 pm – 9 pm: Session/Caucus
Wednesday, March 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 am – 9 am: Joint House and Senate labor and commerce committee meeting on in-home child care (SHR 4) • 8 am: House Children & Family Services Committee work session on Washington School for the Deaf (HHR D) • 9 am – noon: Session/Caucus • 1:30 pm – 9 pm: Session/Caucus • 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm: ALEC WA membership reception (corner of 16th and Sylvester St.)
Thursday, March 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 am: House higher ed meeting on status of higher ed bills (HHR C) • 9 am – noon: Session/Caucus • 1:30 pm – 9 pm: Session/Caucus • 7 pm: Sen. Swecker on TVW's Inside Olympia to discuss gay marriage
Friday, March 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 am: House State Gov Ops work session on election reform with a report by the governor's Election Reform Task Force (HHR D, Live on TVW) • 8 am: House Ag meeting on water rights (HB 2102 – Halper and HB 2168 – Newhouse, HHR A) • 9 am – noon: Session/Caucus • 1:30 – 9 pm: Session/Caucus • 9 pm: Sens. Finkbeiner and Brown on TVW's Olympia On Call
Saturday, March 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 am – noon: Session/Caucus • Lincoln Day Dinner (Kittitas County)

SRC Wins and Losses:

Good bills sponsored by Senate Republicans that died at policy committee cutoff:

- **Senate Bill 5634** requires college credits and degrees earned for teacher salary increases to be verified by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to ensure they are from accredited institutions. (Sen. Mark Schoesler, R-Ritzville)
- **Senate Bill 5677** permanently revokes certificates of teachers found viewing sexually explicit material on school grounds. (Sen. Don Benton, R-Vancouver)
- **Senate Bill 5747** ties the state's automatic minimum wage increases to the state's unemployment rate. (Sen. Mike Hewitt, R-Walla Walla)
- **Senate Bill 6049** makes it easier for small businesses to offer employees Health Savings Accounts. (Sen. Linda Evans Parlette, R-Wenatchee)

Despite some tough losses, Senate Republicans were able to pass some significant legislation past the policy committee cutoff:

- **Senate Bill 5038** increases penalties for recklessly or knowingly failing to yield to emergency or police vehicles. (Sen. Jim Honeyford, R-Sunnyside)
- **Senate Bill 5457** increases penalties for failing to secure a load on public highways. (Sen. Luke Esser, R-Bellevue)
- **Senate Bill 5202** requires the state to provide a health savings account option for employees (Parlette)

SRC in the News

- **On the state budget: Sen. Bill Finkbeiner, the Senate Republican leader,** said, "There are some careful decisions to be made. If we continue to work in a bipartisan manner, we can solve the problem." Finkbeiner said he was concerned that the state was not doing enough to roll back health care mandates strangling small businesses. (*Columbia Basin Herald*, 2-25-05)
- **On pay or play: Sen. Linda Evans Parlette, R-Wenatchee,** said, "It's an employer mandate." She argued that the state would do better to reduce the amount of coverage required for health plans, rather than force employers to buy the plans now required by law. (*Olympian*, 3-2-05)
- **On felon voting rule: Sen. Pam Roach, R-Auburn,** said the rules should not be relaxed "just so they can vote." Roach released a written statement, saying that HB 2062 is "salt in the wound to crime victims" because it would drop the requirement that a felon pay his or her restitution debt to victims before gaining a restoration of rights. (*Olympian*, 3-1-05)